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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DUBLIN 001196

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: ORGANIZED CRIME IN IRELAND (C-CN5-00417)

REF: SECSTATE 146246

Classified By: POL/ECON CHIEF MARY DALY, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B), (D)

1. (C) Summary. It is unlikely that there is large scale involvement of non-nationals in organized crime activities in the Republic of Ireland. According to the EU's 2004 Organized Crime Report, Ireland is unique in that its organized criminal elements are comprised almost entirely of Irish nationals, most of whom are known to each other. Any involvement they may have with foreign criminals is suspected of taking place outside of the country. End summary.

2. (C) The following answers are keyed to reftel questions:

A. Are there organized crime groups present in the host country that originated in the following countries?

Russia, Ukraine, Italy, The Balkans (Albania, Serbia, Bosnia), Japan, Greater China (China, Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan), or West Africa? What is the extent or nature of their presence?

--According to Criminal Assets Bureau Detective Inspector Denis O'Leary, if there is any organized criminal activity in Ireland of Ukrainian, Russian, Chinese, and Nigerian nationals, it would likely take place in terms of involvement in their respective ethnic migrant communities. Irish nationals are the primary suspects in organized crime in Ireland. According to the 2004 European Union Organized Crime Report (EUOCR), non-Irish involvement occurs mainly outside of Ireland, principally with contacts of Irish criminals living abroad.

B. What types of criminal activity are these groups engaged in? What is the economic impact of the criminal activity?

--There is little evidence that these groups operate in Ireland. However, it is suspected that domestic groups may network with foreign organizations abroad to source narcotics for Ireland.

--According to the EUOCR, domestic organized crime groups engage primarily in drug trafficking, and to a lesser extent, cigarettes. The most common types of drugs smuggled into Ireland are cocaine, heroin, and cannabis. The main suspects in the smuggling of cannabis and cocaine are Irish nationals residing in Spain. Likewise, Irish nationals residing in the UK are suspected of organizing the heroin trade into the Republic. Ecstasy, another drug on the rise, is sourced mainly through Irish criminals residing in Holland.

--According to O'Leary and Gerardine Rowley of Ruhama (an NGO involved in the rehabilitation of prostitutes and victims of trafficking) there is anecdotal evidence that the above-mentioned foreign groups operate in Ireland. These groups are suspected of having low-scale involvement in human trafficking, but there has yet to be a successful linkage to these groups in such cases.

C. What front companies do the groups use? What relationship, if any, is there between the criminal groups listed above and crime groups indigenous to the host country? Are there indications that the groups listed above cooperate with each other or other international criminals?

The EU Organized Crime Report suggests that Ireland is unique among European countries, in that organized crime elements in Ireland are Irish, know each other and cooperate in efforts, therefore creating a monopoly.

D. Are there indications of links or connections between these groups and terrorist organizations in the host country?

There are no indications that these groups play a prominent role in Ireland. The IRA, the Continuity IRA (CIRA), and the Real IRA (RIRA) are terrorist groups. However, the IRA announced July 28, 2005 that it would lay down its arms. On September 26, the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning confirmed the IRA had put its arsenal of weapons, explosives and ammunition beyond use. Each of these groups is suspected of being heavily involved in organized crime. Any connection to the above-mentioned foreign groups is tenuous and would suggest associations outside of Ireland.

1E. Is there evidence of corrupt relationships between these groups and host country businessmen or government officials? What is the nature of these relationships? If possible, please provide examples of these crime groups coercing business or government officials.

There is no evidence of corrupt relationships between the foreign organized crime groups mentioned in para A and Irish businessmen or officials.

KENNY